

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CU-04 OPR-02 AID-20 PC-10

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SY-10 NIC-01 IO-14

DRC-01 /203 W

----- 041754

P R 261412Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5764

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, KE

SUBJECT: GOK CRACKS DOWN ON STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS

1. POLICE RIOT SQUAD WAS CALLED TO UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI CAMPUS FEBRUARY 25 WHEN STUDENTS DISRUPTED SCHEDULED UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS IN DEMONSTRATION ON BEHALF 150 COLLEAGUES EXPELLED FROM FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE. STUDENTS THEN MOVED INTO DOWNTOWN AREA FOR SCATTERED DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT MAIN POST OFFICE AND KENYA POLYTECHNIC, WHICH ALSO SUBSEQUENTLY BROKEN UP BY POLICE USING TEAR GAS.

2. ON EVENING FEBRUARY 25 KENYA'S PARAMILITARY POLICE GENERAL SERVICES UNIT (GSU) REPORTEDLY EXPELLED STUDENTS FROM DORMITORIES AT UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, KENYA POLYTECHNIC AND KENYATTA COLLEGE.

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3. ATTEMPTS BY NON-ACTIVIST STUDENTS TO RESUME EXAMS
FEBRUARY 26 AGAIN INTERRUPTED BY RIOT POLICE. REPORTS
CIRCULATING THAT ONE AND POSSIBLY MORE STUDENTS KILLED
BY POLICE DURING TWO-DAY CONFRONTATION.

4. FEBRUARY 26 EVENING NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCES CLOSING OF
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI WITH ALL STUDENTS ORDERED TO VACATE
DORMITORIES BY 5:00 P.M. TODAY OR PRESUMABLY FACE FURTHER
POLICE ACTION.

5. COMMENT: GOK HAS NEVER HESITATED TO CRACK STUDENT
HEADS. BUT STRONG-ARM TACTICS ON THIS OCCASION COULD
BACKFIRE, PROVOKING SITUATION SIMILAR TO THAT IN ADDIS ABABA,
PARTICULARLY IF OTHER DISGRUNTLED ELEMENTS, ESPECIALLY
TRADE UNIONISTS ALREADY UNHAPPY OVER GOVERNMENT WAGE
POLICY AT TIME OF RAPID INFLATION, SHOULD JOIN IN COMMON
CAUSE WITH STUDENTS.
MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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